

REMARKS

This Request for Continued Examination is filed in response to the Advisory Action mailed January 13, 2005 continuing to reject claims 1-3, 23 and 30-33. In the Advisory Action the Examiner states that the arguments presented in the Amendment After Final Rejection are not persuasive for the reason that the Examiner asserts the inputs to the comparator in the Osborn et al reference are clearly related to the drain-source voltage of FETs 202, 210 and the output of comparator 230 is taught by the reference as reflecting an overtemperature condition. The Examiner points to column 9, lines 5-6.

Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in the reference relating to generating a signal reflecting an overtemperature condition. Applicants have reviewed the statements at column 9, lines 5-6 of the reference. These statements merely state that the load current controlling circuit described can be adjusted by adjusting the values of the currents I_1 and I_2 to provide a more stable load current threshold control over semiconductor fabrication processing and circuit operating temperature variations. Osborn et al. are discussing that their circuit can be stabilized despite semiconductor fabrication processing and operating temperature variations. Osborn et al. do not teach or suggest generating an overtemperature protection signal when a predetermined inequality between the voltages at the first and second inputs to the comparator occurs, as claimed in independent claims 1, 23 and 30 of the present application. There is no teaching or suggestion of generating such an overtemperature protection signal. Applicants provide an overtemperature protection comparator 50 in the circuit of Fig. 1 and 50' in the circuit of Fig. 2 to provide this protection. There is no teaching or suggestion of this in the Osborn reference. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1-3, 23 and 30-33 in view of the above remarks and find all claims, including the withdrawn claims 12-14, 24-29 and 38, to be allowable.

In view of the above, Applicants request continued examination and reconsideration and allowance of this application.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail to Addressee (mail label #EV343723208US) in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 4, 2005.

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